

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3245

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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TAGS: TECH BR

SUBJ: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON BRAZILIAN ENERGY PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 301432

1. THIS IS A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO REFTEL REQUESTING INFORMATION ON SUBJECT; SPECIFICALLY, ITEMS I-B AND II-B UNDER ENERGY POLICY.

2. BRAZILIAN R&D PRIORITIES (ITEM I-B): ACCORDING TO THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1975 TO 1979 (UNDER THE HEADING OF PRIORITIES IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL AREAS) ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH HAVE BEEN PLACED AS FIRST PRIORITY. ENERGY RESEARCH HERE REFERRING TO HYDROELECTRIC, THERMOELECTRIC, NUCLEAR, AND SOLAR (AS WELL AS OTHER NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES). THE TWO PRINCIPLE ORGANS OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED WITH THE RESEARCH ARE ELETROBRAS (BRAZILIAN ENERGY COMPANY) AND PETROBRAS (BRAZILIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY); NUCLEBRAS (BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY) WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVT PROGRAM ARE: 1) REDUCE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPENDENCY ON EXTERNAL SOURCES OF ENERGY, 2) INCREASE HYDRO-

ELECTRIC ENERGY EXPLOITATION, 3) INCREASE OVERALL ELECTRIC ENERGY PROGRAM, 4) INCREASE AND MODERNIZE THE COAL USAGE PROGRAM, 5) DEVELOP ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY (SOLAR AND HYDROGEN GAS), AND 6) DEVELOP NUCLEAR REACTOR POWER PLANTS AND EXPLORE FOR RAW MATERIALS. GOB HAS REALIZED THAT IT IS BECOMING MORE LIMITED IN ITS SELECTION OF VIABLE HYDROELECTRIC SITES, AND IT HAS BEGUN TO SHIFT ITS PRIORITIES TO NUCLEAR ENERGY AS AN ALTERNATE, ALTHOUGH GOB STILL RANKS HIGH THE EXPLOITATION OF EXISTING HYDROELECTRIC RESOURCES.

3. BRAZILIAN BUDGETING FOR R&D (ITEM II-B): THE 75 TO 79 DEVELOPMENT PLAN CALLS FOR FUNDS TO BE EXPENDED IN THE ENTIRE ENERGY FIELD (NO R&D FIGURES HAVE BEEN BROKEN OUT) AS FOLLOWS (BRAZILIAN FISCAL YEAR BEGINS JANUARY AND ENDS IN DECEMBER): ELECTRICAL ENERGY (HYDRO, THERMO AND NUCLEAR)- CR\$198 BILLION (US\$21.9 BILLION); PETROLEUM, COAL AND NATURAL GAS (FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE PETROCHEMICALS) - CR\$57.0 BILLION (US\$6.4 BILLION) - TOTAL CR\$255.0 BILLION (US\$28.3 BILLION) (FIGURES BASED ON CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE OF CR\$9.02 TO 1 US DOLLAR). IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT OF THESE FUNDS WILL BE SPENT ON R&D. THE BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROL OF OVERALL BUDGET ALLOCATION.

4. EXPECT TO HAVE COMPLETE ANSWER TO REFTTEL BY REQUESTED DATE OF JANUARY 30, 1976.

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